

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are pending. Claims 7-15 have been cancelled. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,646,068 and claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,713,584. With respect to the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejections, Applicants submit terminal disclaimers herewith. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,043,404 to Mahabadi *et al.* Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the 5,043,404 patent to Mahabadi *et al.*

In view of the fact that Mahabadi discloses a two mixing-step method to reach the claimed conversion amount, the amendments to the claims are believed to overcome each outstanding grounds for rejection. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Mahabadi *et al.* fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants submit that Mahabadi *et al.* does not suggest the present invention for at least the same reasons noted above.

Therefore, all rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachments: Change of Correspondence Address Form PTO/SB/122
Terminal Disclaimer Forms PTO/SB/26